concerned, at present, there is no proposal for increasing the fares for domestic services. Recently, on the recommendations of IATA, increase in fares of 5% were permitted from India to UK/Europe. Further, due to increase in fuel prices, 5% increase in fares were also permitted on international flights. These increases were effected by Air India from 1.3.1997 onwards.

(c) Private airlines are free to charge fares depending upon the market forces. It is generally observed that the fare charged by Private Airlines is either on par with that of Indian Airlines or slightly higher.

[*English*]

Lease of Land at Juhu Airport

*195. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Airport officers flayed for Cheap Lease" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated February 6, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers involved in offering the lease of land at a throw away price at Juhu airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The land has not been leased to any party so far and the Board of Airports Authority of India has not taken any final decision in this regard. Hence, there is no financial loss to the Authority. However, an inquiry has been conducted into this transaction by the Chief Vigilance Officer and the report is being examined.

International Film Festival of India

*196. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the films shown in the International Film Festival of India held at Thiruvananthapuram on January 10, 1997, were dull and drab;

(b) if so, whether there was great dissatisfaction over the quality of films;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the films selected and the criteria adopted for their selection;

(e) the details of the Indian films which won acclaim and the outcome thereof in terms of merit awards and orders for Indian films secured as a result thereof;

(f) whether the Film Federation of India boycotted the International Film Festival;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that IFFI do not lose its purport and lustre?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The festival was infact organised successfully and some of the best films available in World cinema were screened. This included films from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, U.S.A. as well as India.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) (i) FOREIGN FILMS:

1. Foreign films for the International Film Festival of India are selected in accordance with long-established International guidelines, most of which are common to the film festivals of the world. Films are selected keeping in view the overall aim of the festival mentioned in the Festival Regulations every year, which is reproduced below :-

"The Festival aims at providing a common platform for the cinematographies of the world to project the excellence of their film art; contributing to the understanding and appreciation of the film cultures of different nations in the context of their social and cultural ethos; and promoting friendship and co-operation among different peoples of the world."

2. For the "Cinema of the World" Section, feature films of high quality which had been entered in, or had won awards at other International Film Festivals, or were of extraordinary merit, were accepted for exhibition.

3. In addition, the special packages of films for the Focus, Retrospectives, Tributes etc., were selected keeping in view the suggestions, if any, of the Organising Committee. Care was taken to concentrate on the cinema of counties from Asia, Africa or Latin America in the Focus Section of the Festival, in keeping with the practice of highlighting the cinema of Third World countries. Retrospectives and Tributes featuring major film-makers of the world from different countries were also screened.

(ii) INDIAN FILMS

SELECTION OF INDIAN PANORAMA FILMS

The Indian Panorama Films were selected by selection panels of eminent persons. Films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between 1st September, 1995 and 31st August, 1996 and selected by the panels were included in the Indian Panorama. The aim of the Indian Panorama is to select feature and non-feature films of cinematic, thematic and aesthetic excellence, for the